

631013

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Ventspils	DATE DISTR.	12 July 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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- 25X1 1.  port of Ventspils on 23 February 1954.
2. In the harbor there was a very modern pilot boat. It had the lines of a powerful tugboat and it operated like an icebreaker. There were also two large icebreakers of about 1,000 tons each. They were painted black, with a plain red ring and a hammer and sickle painted on the stack. They flew the Soviet merchant flag. There was another icebreaker of the same type, but the hammer and sickle on the stack was in brass. This icebreaker also displayed the Soviet merchant flag.
3. Shore liberty was granted and some of the crew went ashore. The workers in the dock area were well dressed. They had skin hats and good work clothes. They had new canvas aprons and those who worked in the hold also had white overshoe socks (sic) of the same material.

Legend to the Sketch of Ventspils:

1 and 2. In this area informant observed the following ships:

- a. Two small wooden vessels, which he believed were speedboats.
- b. Four larger vessels, but similar to those mentioned above.
- c. Five submarines, which informant described as being older types.
- d. Five or six naval vessels, which informant believed were minesweepers. Each vessel had one stack and a high bow. Informant believed that the equipment he observed on the afterdecks of the vessels was minesweeping gear.
- e. Two submarines of the same type as those mentioned in "c" above.
- f. Two naval vessels, which informant believed were repair or depot ships. One vessel was about 450 tons, and the other vessel, which had one stack, was less than 450 tons.

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g. One large submarine, which was lying between the two vessels mentioned in "f" above. The submarine was painted gray-green, and it was a very modern type with a streamlined conning tower. Informant observed a dome-shaped construction on the foredeck of the submarine.

h. Twelve minesweepers or small destroyers, which were lying in groups of two vessels each. Each ship had a high bow and one stack.

i. Ten or twelve large vessels, many of which had two stacks.

The Soviet steamer SOCHI was located at this point.

Five electric cranes, with a lifting capacity of about five tons each, were located in this area. These cranes operated on tracks along the wharf. In addition to these crane tracks, there were two or three railroad tracks on the wharfs. These tracks lay above the level of the wharf surface. The tracks could accommodate about fifteen railroad cars at one time. The railroad cars were very modern, closed, coal cars.

A coal crane.

Three large warehouses.

A wooden barracks, which was located behind the coal crane. This barracks was used by the guards in the area. Informant believed that the area including warehouses and the wooden barracks was enclosed by a wall in the rear.

Coal yard.

A small ferry.

Sketch of Ventanilla Harbor:

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